

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 24-29, 31 and 42 and withdrawn claims 30 and 43-45 are proposed to be amended herein. Please note that all claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown below. Applicants respectfully request the proposed amendments to the claims be entered. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-23. (Canceled).

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) A triple lumen vascular access catheter ~~capable by for~~advancement along an insertion guide wire of percutaneous entry into a blood vessel of the cardiovascular system of a ~~patient~~patient by way of advancement along an insertion guide wire, ~~said the~~triple lumen vascular access catheter comprising:

a.——an outer tube having a proximal end and a distal end;

b.——an inner tube having a proximal end and a distal end and defining therewithin a first lumen, said inner tube having an outer diameter less than ~~the~~an inner diameter of said outer tube, said inner tube being disposed within said outer tube to define an interior space between the ~~outside~~outer diameter of said inner tube and ~~the~~an inside-inner diameter of said outer tube, ~~the~~wherein an inner diameter of said inner tube ~~is being so-sized as to for~~accommodate accommodating an insertion guide wire having an outer diameter ~~in a range from~~ about 0.036 inches to about 0.038 inches;

e. ~~—a first septum extending from a first point on the outside~~the outer diameter of said inner tube to ~~a first point on the inside~~the inner diameter of said outer tube;

d. ~~—a second septum extending from between a second point on said outside of the outer diameter of~~ said inner tube ~~and a second point on said inside~~to the inner diameter of said outer tube,

~~said wherein the first septum and said second septum thereby separating~~
~~separate~~ said interior space into a second lumen located on one side of said ~~a transverse cross section of the~~ first septum, said inner tube, and said second septum, and a third lumen located on ~~the an~~ opposite side of ~~said the transverse cross section of the~~ first septum, said inner tube, and said second septum;

e. ~~—a tapered distal tip section at said distal end of said outer tube, the wherein an~~ outer surface of said distal tip section ~~tapering tapers~~ radially inwardly from said distal end of said outer tube ~~toward said inner tube and terminating in a first aperture through with~~ which said first lumen communicates ~~with the exterior of said distal tip section;~~

f. ~~—a second aperture formed through said outer tube proximate said distal end thereof, said second lumen communicating with the second lumen the exterior of said outer tube through said second aperture; and~~

g. ~~—a third aperture formed through said outer tube proximate said distal end thereof, said third lumen communicating with the third lumen the exterior of said outer tube through said third aperture.~~

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) A catheter as recited in Claim 24, wherein the ~~size of said inner diameter of said inner tube~~ is about 0.04 inches.

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) A catheter as recited in Claim 24, wherein the first septum extends a ~~the distance between said first point on said outside~~ outer diameter of said inner tube and said first point on said inside inner diameter of said outer tube ~~is equal to the~~ a distance the second septum extends between said ~~second point on souter diameter of said outside of said~~ the inner tube and said ~~second point on said inside inner diameter of said outer tube.~~

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) A catheter as recited in Claim 26, wherein said first septum and said second septum are coplanar.

Claim 28. (Currently Amended) A catheter as recited in Claim 26, wherein ~~the~~ a transverse cross section of said second lumen is congruent with the ~~a transverse cross section of said third lumen.~~

Claim 29. (Previously Presented) A catheter as recited in Claim 28, wherein each of said second lumen and said third lumen have a C-shaped transverse cross section.

Claim 30. (Withdrawn) A catheter as recited in Claim 28, wherein each of said second lumen and said third lumen have a D-shaped transverse cross section.

Claims 31-41. (Canceled)

Claim 42. (Currently Amended) A triple lumen catheter for insertion into a patient by way of advancement along an insertion guide wire, said the triple lumen catheter comprising:

a. ~~_____~~ a catheter body comprising:

i. ~~_____~~ an outer tube having a proximal end and a distal end;

ii. ~~_____~~ an inner tube having a proximal end and a distal end and defining therewithin a first lumen, said inner tube having an outer diameter less than ~~the~~ an inner diameter of said outer tube, said inner tube ~~being disposed~~ positioned within said outer tube to define an interior space between the ~~outside~~ outer diameter of said inner tube and the ~~inside~~ inner diameter of said outer tube;

iii. ~~_____~~ a first septum ~~extending from a first point on the outside between the outer diameter of said inner tube to a first point on the inside~~ the inner diameter of said outer tube; and

iv. ~~_____~~ a second septum extending between ~~a second point on said outside of said~~ the outer diameter of the inner tube and a second point on said inside of said said the inner diameter of the outer tube,

~~said~~ wherein the first septum and said second septum ~~thereby separating said~~ separate the interior space into a second lumen located on one side of ~~said~~ a transverse cross section of the first septum, said inner tube, and said second septum, and a third lumen located on ~~the~~ an opposite side of ~~said~~ the transverse cross section of the first septum, said inner tube, and said second septum;

b. ~~a circularly symmetric frustoconical distal tip section at said~~
~~extending from the distal end of said outer tube, the~~ an outer surface of ~~said the~~
frustoconical distal tip section tapering radially inwardly from said distal end of
said outer tube toward said inner tube and terminating in a first aperture at the
apex of said distal tip section, ~~said the first aperture in communication with the~~
~~first lumen communicating with the exterior of said distal tip section through~~
~~said first aperture;~~

e. ~~a plurality of second apertures formed through said outer tube~~
~~proximate said distal end thereof, said~~ thereof in communication with the second
~~lumen communicating with the exterior of said outer tube through said plurality~~
~~of second apertures;~~

d. ~~a plurality of third apertures formed through said outer tube located~~
further from said distal end thereof than said plurality of said second apertures,
~~said the plurality of third apertures in communication with the~~ third lumen
~~communicating with the exterior of said outer tube through said plurality of third~~
~~apertures; and~~

e. ~~an~~ an access means attached to said proximal end of said outer tube
and said proximal end of said inner tube for affording fluid communication
individually with said first lumen, said second lumen, and said third lumen.

Claim 43. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The triple lumen catheter as recited in Claim 42, wherein said access means comprises:

- a. —a connector attached to said proximal end of said outer tube and said proximal end of said inner tube;
- b. —a first access tube attached to said connector and communicating therethrough with said first lumen;
- c. —a second access tube attached to said connector and communicating therethrough with said second lumen; and
- d. —a third access tube attached to said connector and communicating therethrough with said third lumen.

Claim 44. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The triple lumen catheter as recited in Claim 43, further comprising:

- a. —a cylindrical attachment fitting rotatably mounted on ~~the~~ an exterior of said connector; and
- b. —a pair of coplanar suture wings extending laterally from opposite sides of ~~said~~ the cylindrical attachment fitting.

Claim 45. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The triple lumen catheter as recited in Claim 43, wherein said first access tube carries a closure clamp.

Claim 46-47. (Canceled)